

Message Text

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ACTION SWF-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AGR-20 AID-20 EB-11 IO-14 RSC-01

COME-00 TRSE-00 SPM-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-14

FEA-02 AEC-11 CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-03 DODE-00 FPC-01

H-03 INR-11 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07

SAM-01 SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 FRB-03 OIC-04 HEW-08

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, FAO

SUBJECT: WFC--MAREI GIVES PRESENTATION ON WORLD FOOD AUTHORITY TO GROUP B COUNTRIES

1. INFORMAL MEETING GROUP B COUNTRIES CHAIRED BY AUSTRALIA WAS HELD EVENING SEPT. 17 TO HEAR DETAILED PRESENTATION FROM SEC. GEN. MAREI ON HIS WORLD FOOD AUTHORITY (WFA) PROPOSAL. MAREI MADE IT CLEAR HE IS NOT WEDDED TO SPECIFICS OF PROPOSAL, BUT SOLELY TO ABSOLUTE NEED FOR FOLLOW-UP MECHANISMS WHICH WILL PROVIDE INTEGRATED APPROACH TO WHAT HE REFERRED TO AS THREE MAIN PILLARS OF WFA PLAN: INCREASED LDC FOOD PRODUCTION, IMPROVED CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION THROUGH FOOD AID, AND FOOD SECURITY. TO ACCOMPLISH THIS, MAREI SAID WORLD REQUIRED NEW FLOW OF RESOURCES INTO LDC AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND A FOOD POLICY WHICH WOULD COORDINATE FOOD AID AND SECURITY OR RESERVE ACTIVITIES. MAREI GAVE STRONG PITCH FOR CREATION OF SOME NEW BODY WHICH WOULD POSSESS THE

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POLITICAL AND MORAL AUTHORITY TO MOBILIZE GENERAL POLITICAL

SUPPORT AND RESOURCES. HE STRESSED THAT WFA WOULD NOT REPLACE OR UNDERMINE EXISTING ORGANIZATIONS, BUT CONCLUDED THAT ALL THAT NEED BE AGREED UPON NOW WAS IMPORTANCE OF HIS QUOTE THREE MAIN PILLARS UNQUOTE AND SOME FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM TO MOVE FOOD PROBLEM MORE QUICKLY TO SOLUTION THAN IS POSSIBLE THROUGH SLOW WORKINGS OF GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCESS.

2. B GROUP COUNTRIES ALL WARMLY SUPPORTED THREE PILLARS AND NEED FOR FOLLOW-UP, BUT WERE ALMOST UNIVERSALLY SKEPTICAL OF NEED FOR NEW ORGANIZATION. SEVERAL, PARTICULARLY US, QUESTIONED POWER RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN VARIOUS PARTS OF WFA AND RELATIONSHIP OF NEW AUTHORITY TO UN AND FAO. CANADIANS EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT FURTHER OUTGROWTH OF UN SYSTEM WOULD POSSESS ANY OVERRIDING MORAL AUTHORITY. MANY, PARTICULARLY FRG REP, STRESSED ALTERNATIVE OF IMPROVED COORDINATION WITHIN EXISTING BODIES AND POSSIBILITY OF SETTING UP COORDINATING COMMITTEE TO PERFORM THIS ROLE.

3. SOME SKEPTICISM WAS ALSO RAISED REGARDING COMMITMENT OF OIL PRODUCERS TO MAKE SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO NEW FUNDS. MAREI COUNTERED THAT ARABS READY TO MOVE FORWARD ON SERIOUS PROPOSAL IF DCS READY TO PARTICIPATE, NOT ONLY WITH MONEY BUT WITH TECHNICAL EXPERTISE AS WELL.

4. CLEAR CONSENSUS OF MEETING WAS WILLINGNESS RECOGNIZE ELEMENTS OF PROBLEM AND NEED TO ORGANIZE COORDINATED APPROACH TO SOLUTION. HOWEVER, PREVAILING NEGATIVE ATTITUDE ON NEW ORGANIZATION AND GENERALLY WEAK DEFENSE OF WFA PUT UP BY MAREI CONSIDERABLY REDUCE VIABILITY OF HIS PROPOSAL.

5. GROUP B DISCUSSION CONTINUED PRIVATELY FOLLOWING MEETING WITH MAREI. END VOLPE

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